Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 MCE-00 DODE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL/EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
EUR/RPM:WTSHINN
L/T:MISS DEKANY
DOD/ISA:COL. KLASS
PM/ISP:JHHAWES
EUR/WE:EROWELL

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, FR, US

SUBJECT: MOU ON DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH FRANCE

REF: PARIS 15628

FOR US NATO: PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF PARTY FOR MR. SIENA AND MAJ GEN BOWMAN.

- 1. REQUISITE COMPARISON OF PRESENT FRENCH AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF MOU HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
- 2. ON CLASSIFICATION: WE WOULD HAVE SIXTY DAYS TO REPORT AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS UNDER THE CASE ACT. IF FRENCH, AS CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLIED IN REFTEL, CAN SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO DECLASSIFICATION OF MOU IN NEXT FEW WEEKS, THIS WOULD GREATLY SIMPLIFY MEMORANDUM OF EXPLANATION THAT WILL ACCOMPANY TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION COPIES OF MOUS TO CONGRESS.

3. FOR MR. SIENA AND GEN. BOWMAN: DURING COURSE OF FINAL READ-THROUGH OF PROPOSED MOU TEXT, WE NOTE THAT

IN ELIMINATING PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO THE IEPG,AS FRENCH REQUESTED, THE ENTIRE SENTENCE ON COOPERATION HAS FALLEN OUT. WE ASSUME THIS IS MERELY AN OVERSIGHT SINCE SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE FRENCH ONLY INDICATED AVERSION TO

IEPG WORDING. THEREFORE, RECOMMEND THAT YOU SEEK TO REINSERT BALANCE OF LAST-AGREED PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE AS FOLLOWS:

"THIS MEMORANDUM FITS INTO THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF ARMAMENTS COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES."

FYI. WHILE STAGE AND LEVEL OF NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXT MAY MAKE SUCH A CHANGE DIFFICULT, WE FEEL QUITE STRONGLY THAT THIS LANGUAGE WHICH IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER HAS BEEN IN EVERY VERSION FROM THE OUTSET, SHOULD BE RETAINED. OTHERWISE, THERE REMAINS NO EUROPEAN OR MULTINATIONAL COOPERATIVE FLAVOR WHATSOEVER WHICH, AFTER ALL, HAS BEEN AT LEAST PART OF OUR INTEREST IN THESE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ALL ALONG. FURTHER, A PURELY BILATERAL ARMS AGREEMENT WITH NO SENSE OF COOPERATION OR IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO STANDARD OR INTEROPERABLE SYSTEMS MAY NOT SET WELL WITH CONGRESS. END FYI.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PAPERS, TEXT, MILITARY AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 18 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127383
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: EJBEIGEL/EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON:MEM

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780210-0416

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780543/aaaabkbf.tel

Line Count: 94 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes. Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: fc7f169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 PARIS 15628

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 17 jun 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2646149 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MOU ON DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH FRANCE

TAGS: MARR, FR, US

To: USNATO Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc7f169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014